OPNAVINST 3050.26
N8
9 Apr 2015

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3050.26

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS SPEED TO FLEET PROCESS

Encl: (1) CNO Speed to Fleet Process Timeline

1. Purpose. To formalize the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Speed to Fleet (S2F) process by formalizing the timeline, selection guidance, entrance, and exit criteria.

2. Scope and Applicability. The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Director, Innovation, Technical Requirements, Test and Evaluation (OPNAV N84) manages the CNO S2F process on an annual basis. Supporting entities include:

    a. Information Dominance (CNO N2/N6)

    b. Warfare Systems (CNO N9)

    c. Readiness and Logistics (N4)

    d. Programming (OPNAV N80)

    e. Assessments (OPNAV N81)

    f. U.S. Fleet Forces Fleet Command Capabilities, Requirements, Concepts and Experimentation (USFLTFORCOM N8/N9)

3. Background

    a. The goal of the CNO S2F process is to introduce and demonstrate to the fleet new capabilities that have matured out of the Naval Research Enterprise that require non-science and technology funding for advanced development and prototyping.

    b. The process enables the fleet to develop, test, and refine concepts of operations (CONOPS) and concepts of employment (CONEMP), and evaluate integration with existing

warfighting capabilities. Additionally, military end-user evaluations provide valuable lessons and direct feedback to capability developers and acquisition communities.

c. Projects can be complete systems (e.g., fully functional prototype of a capability) or components of larger, existing systems (e.g., software algorithm upgrade to a program of record (POR) radar system).

d. In some cases, limited quantities may be retained by the fleet to provide an interim capability until the formal acquisition process procures the system and components and provides the requisite lifecycle sustainment.

e. CNO S2F is not intended to supplant deliberate acquisition processes, but rather is intended to provide needed agility in demonstrating and transitioning capability to warfighters. To accomplish that goal, close collaboration shall be required between USFLTFORCOM, OPNAV, the Office of Naval Research, the Naval Research Enterprise, and the acquisition community.

4. Selection Guidance

a. The CNO S2F process identifies candidates that address high-priority capability gaps whose requirements are not otherwise being met with existing technology, or whose solutions do not field until the end of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) or beyond, that may provide an interim capability.

b. The transition of a completed project to a POR, although desired, is not required; however, candidate projects should show potential alignment to a POR. The process of advanced development and final demonstration may contribute to risk mitigation of current or future acquisition programs, and enable valuable fleet CONOPS and CONEMP exploration and innovation. To that end, during the vetting process program element codes for a potential transition target will be identified to facilitate follow-on programmatic and funding decisions.

c. It is not the objective of the process to accelerate or make "whole" an acquisition POR. Project proposals should not be intended to address, resolve and mitigate post-milestone B acquisition POR technical issues, deficiencies in POR critical

technology maturation, or POR issues related to developmental test and operations test deficiencies. However, in certain instances, such as the identification of a new threat, it may be necessary to accelerate or make technology improvements to a POR through the CNO S2F process. Those instances shall be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

   d. The CNO S2F process is intended to introduce and demonstrate new capabilities to warfighters and is not intended to field complete capabilities as does the acquisition process. As such, it is not required that the CNO S2F process address lifecycle and sustainability issues that would normally be part of acquisition process development. In those instances where prototypes are left behind for extended user evaluation and sustainability, discussions shall be held with stakeholders to inform sustainment and man, train and equip disposition decisions following final demonstration.

5. Entrance Criteria

   a. Maturity. Technology readiness level 6 or higher. Projects less mature shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

   b. Timeline. The project should be capable of fleet demonstration in a relevant operational environment within 24 months of receipt of funding (nominally at the beginning of a new fiscal year).

   c. Need. The project shall address a known, substantiated fleet need as identified in combatant commanders' integrated priorities lists, in fleet integrated prioritized capabilities lists, and or in documents such as the OPNAV N81 mission area assessment. Additionally, candidate projects shall:

      (1) Address warfighter needs and or gaps where no solutions were previously identified; and

      (2) Address warfighter needs and or gap where program objective memorandum (POM) planned solutions do not field until the end of the FYDP or beyond.

   d. Funding. Projects shall be ready for funding from advanced component development and prototypes research, development, test and evaluation budget activity 6.4.

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6. Exit Criteria

    a. Approved projects are expected to demonstrate agreed
upon capability in the agreed upon time period as briefed to the
selection Resources and Requirements Review Board (R3B).
Changes to key performance aspects or final demonstration
timeframe will be briefed during the regularly scheduled
"S2F/urgent operational need (UON)" disposition R3Bs.

    b. It is the responsibility of the project's principal
investigator and program manager to describe to stakeholders
(the fleet; the respective OPNAV resource sponsor; the potential
acquisition program office; OPNAV N84; and the Office of Naval
Research) planned actions, key milestones and expected
deliverables. While formal technology transition agreements are
not required, stakeholders shall agree on roles and or
responsibilities, demonstration venue and plan, final
deliverables, costs and schedule, and shall consider use of a
memorandum of agreement to document those decisions.

7. Process. The CNO S2F process is managed by OPNAV N84.

    a. Timeline. The yearly CNO S2F project selection process
is executed as depicted in enclosure (1). The process begins
with a call for proposals from the Naval Research Enterprise in
October. The submission process includes a stakeholder review
of each submission's adherence to entrance criteria. That is
followed by a technical review by the Office of Naval Research,
a fleet review to conduct an integrated priority ranking, and a
broader stakeholder review to determine advocacy and identify
potential transition paths. The process concludes with a
selection R3B in April. Approved projects begin execution in
October of the year they are selected. Scheduling of the
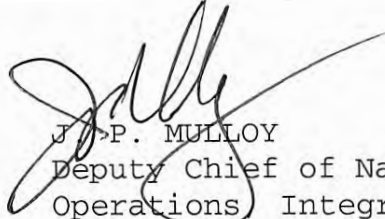selection R3B is through POM serial guidance.

    b. Funding. In general, R3B approved projects are funded
in the first year by the respective resource sponsor. OPNAV N80
programs the second year funding. In some cases, the resource
sponsor may be directed to fund both years. Funding guidance is
issued each year through POM serial.

    c. Disposition. Following final project demonstration,
ultimate disposition of the project is adjudicated via regularly
scheduled "S2F/UON" disposition R3Bs. For those projects where

transition to a POR is desired, a recommendation is made to the associated resource sponsor and program office. Integration into the POR and associated efforts is the primary responsibility of the resource sponsor and the program office.

    d. Status. Status updates for CNO S2F projects in execution shall be provided to CNO following the regularly scheduled "S2F/UON" disposition R3Bs.

8. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and forms, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

                              J. P. MULLOY
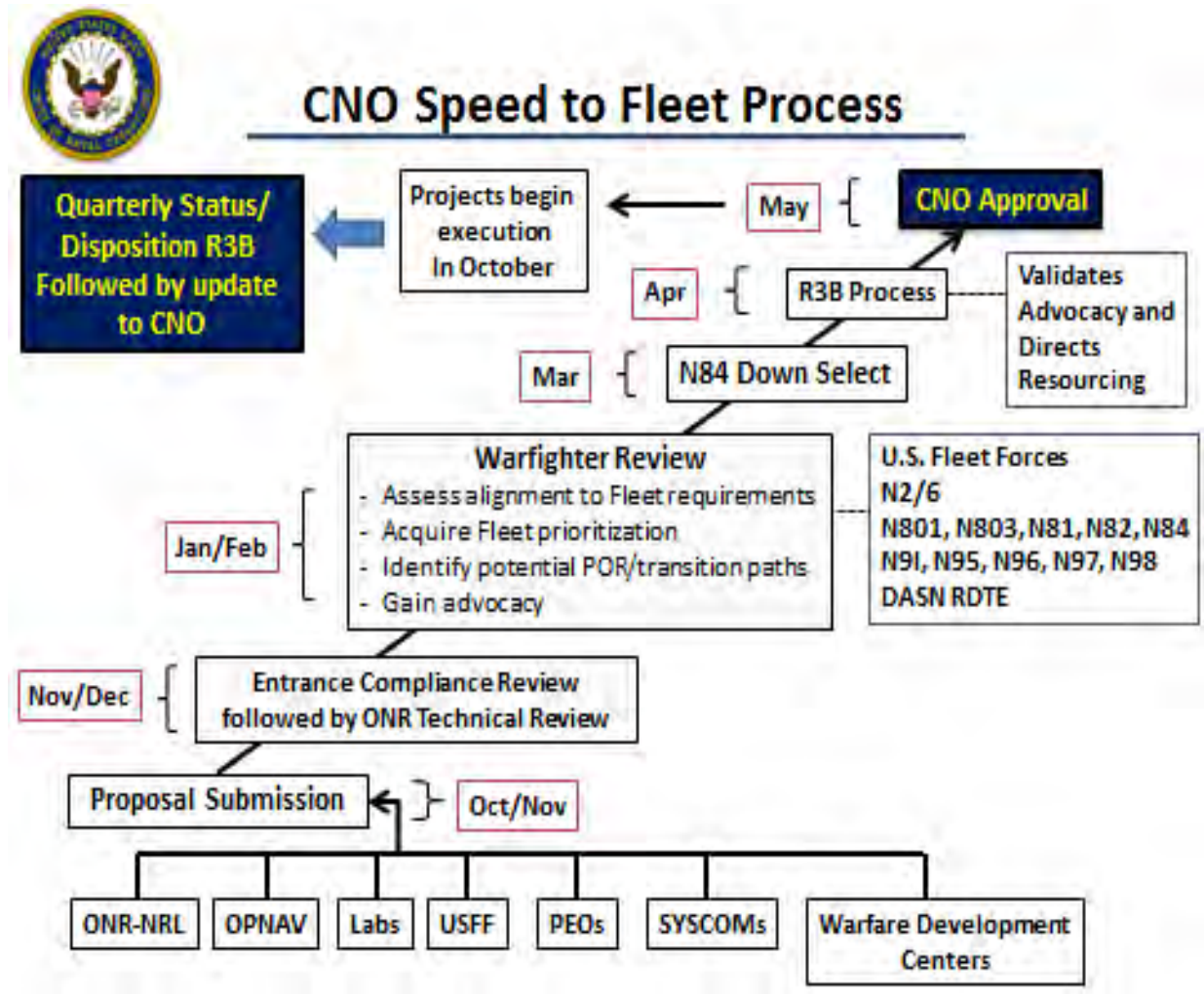   Deputy Chief of Naval
                              Operations Integration of
                              Capabilities and Resources

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CNO SPEED TO FLEET PROCESS TIMELINE

CNO Speed to Fleet Process

Quarterly Status/Disposition R3B Followed by update to CNO

Projects begin execution In October ← **May** { **CNO Approval**

Apr { **R3B Process** ---- **Validates Advocacy and Directs Resourcing**

Mar { **N84 Down Select**

Warfighter Review
- Assess alignment to Fleet requirements
- Acquire Fleet prioritization
- Identify potential POR/transition paths
- Gain advocacy

U.S. Fleet Forces
N2/6
N801, N803, N81, N82, N84
N9I, N95, N96, N97, N98
DASN RDTE

Jan/Feb {

Nov/Dec { **Entrance Compliance Review followed by ONR Technical Review**

Proposal Submission ← } **Oct/Nov**

| ONR-NRL | OPNAV | Labs | USFF | PEOs | SYSCOMs | Warfare Development Centers |

NOTE:

CNR – Chief of Naval Research
N2/6 – Information Dominance
N801 – Program, Plans and Development
N803 – Joint Capabilities and Urgent Needs
N82 – Fiscal Management
N9I – Warfare Integration
N95 – Expeditionary Warfare
N96 – Surface Warfare
N97 – Undersea Warfare
N98 - Air Warfare
DASN RDT&E – Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation
NRL – Naval Research Laboratory
ONR – Office of Naval Research
PEO – Program Executive Office
USFF – United States Fleet Forces
SYSCOM – System Commands